

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) Case No. CR-18-260-58-SLP
)
ALMA BELTRAN,)
)
Defendant.)

ORDER

Before the Court is Defendant's pro se Motion to Reduce Sentence [Doc. No. 2908].

Defendant seeks a reduction of her sentence pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) and Amendment 821 to the United States Sentencing Guidelines (U.S.S.G.). The Government has filed a Response [Doc. No. 2918] and opposes the requested relief. The Court has further reviewed the Probation Office's Preliminary Report for Consideration of Sentence Reduction Based on Amendment 821 [Doc. No. 2915]. For the reasons that follow, Defendant's Motion is DISMISSED.

I. Background

On July 23, 2019, Defendant pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribution of methamphetamine and aiding and abetting, in violation of 21 U.S.C. § 841(a)(1) and (2). Doc. Nos. 1220-1222. On June 30, 2020, the United States Probation Office filed its Final Presentence Investigation Report (PSR). Doc. No. 1905. The PSR calculated a base offense level of 38, plus (1) a two-point enhancement because Defendant possessed a firearm in connection with the offense, and (2) a two-point enhancement because the

methamphetamine involved in the offense was unlawfully imported from Mexico. *Id.*, ¶¶ 31-33. This resulted in an adjusted offense level of 42. *Id.*, ¶ 37. After applying a three-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility, the PSR calculated a total offense level of 39. *Id.*, ¶¶ 39-41.

The PSR calculated a total criminal history score of zero for Defendant, placing her in a criminal history category of I. *Id.*, ¶¶ 44-45. Combining Defendant's total offense level of 39 and criminal history category of I, the PSR recommended a guideline range of 262 to 327 months' imprisonment. *Id.*, ¶ 73.

On November 30, 2021, the Court adopted the PSR without change, varied downward, and sentenced Defendant to 120 months' imprisonment. Doc. Nos. 2739, 2742, 2743.

On January 19, 2024, Defendant filed the pending Motion. She seeks a reduction pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) based on Amendment 821 on grounds that she is a zero-point offender.

II. Standard

“A district court does not have inherent authority to modify a previously imposed sentence; it may do so only pursuant to statutory authorization.” *United States v. Mendoza*, 118 F.3d 707, 709 (10th Cir. 1997). One source of statutory authorization is section 3582 which allows for a possible reduction for a defendant “who has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment based on a sentencing range that has subsequently been lowered by the Sentencing Commission.” 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2).

Section 3582(c)(2) “establishes a two-step inquiry.” *Dillon v. United States*, 560

U.S. 817, 826 (2010). “At step one, § 3582(c)(2) requires the court to follow the Commission’s instructions in [U.S.S.G.] § 1B1.10 to determine the prisoner’s eligibility for a sentence modification and the extent of the reduction authorized.” *Id.* at 827. “At step two of the inquiry, § 3582(c)(2) instructs a court to consider any applicable § 3553(a) factors and determine whether, in its discretion, the reduction authorized by reference to the policies relevant at step one is warranted in whole or in part under the particular circumstances of the case.” *Id.*

Here, Defendant seeks a sentence reduction pursuant to Amendment 821 to the U.S.S.G. which took effect on November 1, 2023, and applies retroactively. Part A of Amendment 821 limits the criminal history impact of “status points,” and Subpart 1 of Part B of Amendment 821 creates a new guideline, § 4C1.1, that provides for a decrease of two offense levels for “Zero-Point Offenders.” *See* U.S. Sent’g Guidelines Manual app. C Supp., amend. 821 (U.S. Sent’g Comm’n 2023). With respect to the guideline for zero-point offenders, a defendant is eligible for a two-level reduction in the offense level if he or she meets all ten of the listed criteria.¹

¹ Those ten criteria are:

- (1) the defendant did not receive any criminal history points from Chapter Four, Part A;
- (2) the defendant did not receive an adjustment under § 3A1.4 (Terrorism);
- (3) the defendant did not use violence or credible threats of violence in connection with the offense;
- (4) the offense did not result in death or serious bodily injury;
- (5) the instant offense of conviction is not a sex offense;
- (6) the defendant did not personally cause substantial financial hardship;
- (7) the defendant did not possess, receive, purchase, transport, transfer, sell, or otherwise dispose of a firearm or other dangerous weapon (or induce another participant to do so) in connection with the offense;

III. Analysis

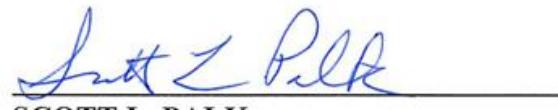
Because Defendant has zero criminal history points, she contends she is a zero-point offender entitled to a decrease in two offense levels. But Defendant fails to meet all ten eligibility criteria. Specifically, Defendant fails to meet U.S.S.G. § 4C1.1(a)(7). Defendant possessed a firearm during the offense by driving twice to deliver firearms to a third party. PSR, ¶ 20. A sentence reduction, therefore, is not authorized under 18 U.S.C. § 3582(c)(2) and Amendment 821. Moreover, because Defendant's current sentence of 120 months' imprisonment is already less than the purported amended guideline range of 210-262 months, Defendant is ineligible for a sentence reduction. *See* U.S.S.G. § 1B1.10(b)(2)(A)-(B); *see also Dillon*, 560 U.S. at 827. Accordingly, the Court lacks jurisdiction to reduce Defendant's sentence. *See United States v. White*, 765 F.3d 1240, 1242 (10th Cir. 2014) ("[D]ismissal for lack of jurisdiction rather than denial on the merits is the appropriate disposition of [defendant's] § 3582(c)(2) motion.").

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendant's Motion for Sentence Reduction [Doc. No. 2908] is DISMISSED.

- (8) the instant offense of conviction is not covered by § 2H1.1 (Offenses Involving Individual Rights);
- (9) the defendant did not receive an adjustment under § 3A1.1 (Hate Crime Motivation or Vulnerable Victim) or § 3A1.5 (Serious Human Rights Offense); and
- (10) the defendant did not receive an adjustment under § 3B1.1 (Aggravating Role) and was not engaged in a continuing criminal enterprise, as defined in 21 U.S.C. § 848

U.S.S.G. § 4C1.1(a).

IT IS SO ORDERED this 18th day of September, 2024.



SCOTT L. PALK
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE